



Landscape Advisory Committee

Minutes of Meeting Held June 15, 2016

Members Present: Jim Bennett, Elizabeth Davison, Katie Gannon, Jackie Lyle, Deborah Munoz-Chacon, Les Shipley, Ron van Ommeren

Members Absent: Ellen Alster, Christina Bickelmann, Roger Howlett, Peter Warren

Guests / Staff Present: Timothy Thomure, Director Tucson Water; Jessie Byrd, Pima County NRPR; Ries Lindley, Arizona Native Plant Society; John Scheuring, AZNPS; Laura Mielcarek, Wheat Design; Nick Shipley, Civano Nursery; Irene Ogata, PDS

1. CALL TO ORDER

A. Meeting called to order at 3:30 p.m. by D.Munoz-Chacon.

2. Minutes for Approval

- May 18, 2016: Corrections: pg. 2: 5.B. delete D.Munoz and replace with J. Lyle; check spelling of E.Alster (correct). Motion by J.Bennett to accept minutes, second by L.Shipley; no discussion. Approved yes-6, no-0, abstain-0.

3. New Discussion:

- A. Meet & Greet Tucson Water Director Timothy Thomure: LAC members and guests provided brief introduction to themselves; Director Thomure provided brief background of himself – engineer/hydrology; connect sustainability of water with landscape: themes of (1) innovation: water can be and should be broader than just providing water; concept of One Water Concept = bigger perspective rather than discrete technical concept; all scales from rooftop to water provision (2) collaboration and (3) engagement – especially internal department with City Manager ; how Tucson Water can work to be proactive, integral to landscape, being water sustainability
- Challenges: (a) customer service, many broken system; next step deep dive into looking at rate paying; rates growing but consumption going down; yet population going up (b) financial sustainability, while doing the right things with conservation (c) next generation leadership within the water department; focusing opportunity and investing in mentoring of next generation – moving to a culture of ‘yes’
 - Overview of banking water: explanation of service area; (1) inter and intra state recharge basin; Tucson has been taking full allocations and recharging; some local productions due to elevation and pressure requirements; TW recharging 2/3 of their allocation; Phoenix and CA banking of CO river, fee = cost of service + plus developing good relations (2) aquifer: central fields have been recovering due to not pumping and nature recharge; along edges still some stress levels; decrease rate of decline; Pima Mines area recharging positively; good relationship with Vail – “wheeling” water (Vail does not have infrastructure so TW treats water and transports to Vail system for a fee)
- B. Grant Road Improvement Project. Presentation: overview of Phase 2 – west of Stone to 1 block east of Park (Phase 1 = Oracle intersection); 1st project under the Green Streets Active Practice Guideline (APG); unique elements (a) integrated project, consultants and subconsultants working together, including utilities coordinating; (b) water being captured in the medians due to slanting of roadway (vs crowning), large basin to decrease flooding on 1st/Grant; most of landscaping between sidewalk and property line, sidewalk up to curb; pictures of check dams and basins – stacked rocks; not salvaging as much material as

St. Mary's; water harvesting not new – Parks has been doing for 25 years; what's new is streets harvesting and using for vegetation; basins in medians and shoulder; little concerns about water quality – doesn't seem to hurt the vegetation; little sediment coming off the streets; ½" rain and volume of water being captured = seeking to figure metric of capture; preliminary calculations = saving 3X more than needed by plants; on some projects, may be irrigating deep and able to not irrigate in cooler season; on urban arterials – not too much invasive plants in basins. Discussion. No action.

- C. City Landscape Policy: Salvaging Plants on Roadway Projects: S. Stabler from Ward 6 gave initial background regarding request to have LAC look at existing Ordinance and Admin. Directive and if it was good fit, or need to re-look if need separate policy;
 - Native Plant Ordinance not a good fit for roadway projects; roadway projects take 2-3 years; and salvaging lends itself to loss of vegetation, unless only one move involved; need to look at cost effectiveness and survivability of plant when considering salvaging vs new plants
 - Welcome LAC to look at APG for salvaging plant materials on roadway projects; side goal – get inventory and preservation of plants to coordinate with utilities early on; City has been successful with cacti and succulents, difficulty salvaging trees; LAC subcommittee: R.van Ommeran, L.Mielcarek, N.Shipley, will send out to LAC for other interest, also will add guests from Native Plant Society for invite to the meeting.
 - Discussion; no action
- D. LAC taking month off for summer: City Manager's Office looking at Boards, Commissions & Committees – would like 2 meetings with LAC during the summer, potentially July & August – potentially go to Mayor & Council in Sept; potentially take Sept; delay vote, reconsider option in July.

5. Old Discussion

- A. TEP & Poles Update: No update. No action.
- B. Budget Discussion: J.Lyle: Mayor Rothschild on board; but suggested reinforce alliance with Visit Tucson; will line up meeting; also invite someone from organization to LAC meeting.
- C. IPM Update – P.Warren: No update, survey response from 3 out of 10 staff members; will set up meeting in next couple of weeks and follow-up if anything else
- D. UHI workshop: Thursday, UHI workshop: TEP confirmed use of HQ; theme = Climate Change and Health; Greg Garfin, UA Climate researcher confirmed; invited Pima County Health Dept, Dr. Francisco Garcia; Sonoran Environmental Research Institute, Ann Marie Wolf confirmed; Tucson Water, maybe launching of Stormwater program. Partners: TEP, Tucson Clean & Beautiful, LAC sponsor

6. Chairperson's Summary of Current Events

- Tohono Chul, Queen of Desert bloom night, *Peniocereus greggi* – June 15 open late.
- AZ Nursery Assoc. retreat, hear talk from Dr. Charlie Hall, Texas A&M, Economist, also part of American Bloom Think Tank; fresh insight regarding economics of image improvement; if LAC member interested, insight into improving image of city attaching economic value to scenic beauty; fits nicely with Visit Tucson if they could be present

7. Call to Audience:

- No comments

8. Call for Future Agenda Items

- Presentation by Dr. Charlie Hall (packed 40 min. presentation) – L.Shipley will contact and ask; potentially for July meeting

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.